



## The E-Newsletter of the Senate Majority Caucus

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**Senate President Robert Bunda (D-Wahiawa, North Shore) with members of the Joint House-Senate Task Force on Ice and Drug Abatement. "Ice" paraphernalia are on display in the foreground.**

## Senator Lorraine Inouye to Address National Agriculture Conference

Senate Water, Land, and Agriculture Chair Lorraine Inouye (D-Northeast Hawaii) will address the Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit in New Orleans on January 16. She will deliver a speech on legal issues related to agriculture, particularly in the field of biotechnology, and act as moderator for a discussion that will include lawmakers from around the country.

## Ice Task Force Recommendations Driven by Community Input

A Joint House-Senate Task Force has released a comprehensive package of recommendations to combat Hawaii's growing ice epidemic. The report comes on the heels of six months of information gathering at the community level, including interviews with recovering addicts, law enforcement personnel, treatment providers, and educators. Task Force members conducted informational briefings, gathered testimony at public hearings, took part in site visits at treatment facilities, and reviewed a 40-inch-high stack of written materials. Although ice addiction in Hawaii is a serious public health crisis, there is hope. "At the end of the information gathering process," the report says, "we came away convinced that the ice epidemic can be stopped."

The signs of hope are found in the areas of prevention and treatment, particularly among the young. The Task Force is calling for early intervention and treatment of adolescents as its highest spending priority. During the presentation of the report to House and Senate leadership, Task Force Co-Chair Sen. Colleen Hanabusa (D-Nanakuli, Waianae) said, "Our priority is children. That's where [treatment] is working and that's where it will continue to work." The Joint Task Force's other co-chairs are Sen. Melodie Aduja (D-Kaneohe, Kahuku) and Rep. Eric G. Hamakawa (D-South Hilo). The Vice-Chair is Rep. Tommy Waters (D-Waimanalo).

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**Senator Lorraine Inouye**

One of the primary issues before Sen. Inouye's committee this session will be the identification of Important Agricultural Lands (IAL's). "Our goal is assuring the future availability of suitable agricultural lands," Senator Inouye says. "We need to identify the lands that need conservation and protection in order to promote diversified agriculture."

# Waste Management a Growing Problem

Senator Melodie Williams Aduja (D-Kaneohe, Kahuku) says illegal dumping of toxic materials has reached crisis proportions in Hawaii, and has created a statewide task force to address the problem. Her Task Force on Waste Management and Recycling has brought State and City/County lawmakers together with members of the recycling industry and the environmental community to assess the scope of the problem and address legal remedies.

Aduja is preparing to introduce a number of bills to improve Hawaii's waste-management system in the upcoming legislative session. The bills aim to curb the practice of illegal dumping through such means as increasing fines and requiring more State oversight, and providing meaningful incentives for recycling and properly disposing of unwanted appliances and vehicles.

"We need to work as a team to move these bills through the Legislature," Aduja said. "I was deeply concerned that this type of illegal dumping was happening [around the islands] and believed that it was the Legislature's responsibility to investigate this issue thoroughly."



**Senator Aduja inspects an illegal dump site on Kunia Road.**

**"Improper management of solid and hazardous waste has a traumatic effect on the people of our islands. We must all do our part to stop contributing to the problem. 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle' should be our daily mantra."**

**Sen. Melodie Aduja**

## Media Watch

### **Honolulu Advertiser Calls Governor's Reaction to Ice Task Force "Dismaying"**

A July 15 editorial in the Honolulu Advertiser carries the headline "Lingle's dismay over ice plan is dismaying." The piece is a response to a statement made by Governor Lingle the previous day, when she dismissed the Task Force recommendations as "throwing money at the problem" of ice addiction. The Advertiser points to the fact that the report is the product of extensive input gathered through hearings, site visits, and meetings around the state. It says "it's rather disconcerting that Gov. Linda Lingle expressed disappointment with recommendations from a legislative task force whose input on how to mitigate Hawaii's ice epidemic came largely from the community."

The editorial also defended the Task Force recommendations' emphasis on prevention and treatment services, saying "it's best that we ensure everyone with a drug problem has access to treatment, because court

expenses, prison, medical treatment, foster care and all the other costs associated with drug addiction will be a lot more exorbitant in the long run."

The editorial concludes, "there's room for compromise in the agendas of the legislature and the governor, and we'd rather see Lingle work with the panel than undermine its efforts and those of the community at large."



*Call to Order is a bi-weekly publication of the Hawaii Senate Majority Caucus.*  
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